



PHARMACY SERVICES

Office of the Medical Director

Contact the Editor: OMD@dmh.lacounty.gov

Calendar Year 2010, First Quarter

The Pharmacy Connection

Welcome to *The Pharmacy Connection*, a quarterly newsletter that will serve as a forum for publishing pharmacy related news and updates for DMH directly operated and contracted sites. We hope this is a valuable resource and we look forward to hearing from you should you have any suggestions for content.

DMH Formulary Updates

Added

- ◇ Venlafaxine ER (UBS): 37.5 mg, 75 mg, 150 mg, 225 mg
Codes: VNX375ER, VNX75ER, VNX150ER, VNX225ER
- ◇ Aripiprazole (Abilify- BMS): 2mg tablet, 10mg and 15mg SL
Discmelt, 1 mg/ml Solution
Codes: APZ2, APZ10SL, APZ15SL, APZ1L
- ◇ Fluvoxamine CR (Luvox CR-Solvay): 100 mg, 150 mg
Codes: FVM100CR, FVM150CR

Changed/Deleted

- ◇ DMH does not pay for Venlafaxine XR (Effexor XR- Wyeth)
- ◇ Psycho-stimulant medications are now limited to ages 4 through 16 for new indigent clients; this is consistent with Medi-Cal
- ◇ Clozapine generic will be the only clozapine available; branded clozapine (Clozaril- Novartis, FazaClo-Azur) will be deleted.

Medi-Cal Formulary

To review the Medi-Cal formulary, please visit: www.medical.ca.gov

Announcements

- ◇ **IS and PATS will be down for 4 days beginning March 4th (6:00 PM) through March 8th (7:00 AM).** Downtime procedures were posted in a Revenue Management Division Bulletin and faxed to sites. If you are in need of these procedures, please notify Pharmacy Services.
- ◇ The current DMH TAR review process is being revised. If you have any input, please inform Dr. Chan. We encourage constructive suggestions as we move toward improving the process.
- ◇ The next Quarterly Physicians Meeting/CME will be on March 4, 2010 from 12–5pm at DMH HQ in the 2nd floor conference room. The CME topic is *"Treatment of ADHD throughout the lifespan"*.
- ◇ IMP recently received a Los Angeles County Quality and Productivity Commission Special Merit Award for the database which improved efficiency and assisted in obtaining an additional savings of over \$1 million.

[IMP Clinic Spotlight]

Great Job!

Coastal Asian Pacific, Arcadia, & American Indian

for being the top performers, for October–December 2009, in reducing indigent medication costs!

Indigent Medications Program (IMP)

IMP was initiated in February 2003 by Pharmacy Services to assist indigent and low-income eligible clients to participate in the pharmaceutical company sponsored Patient Assistance Programs, which provide medication at no cost to clients or to DMH.

Since the inception of IMP, DMH has realized cost savings of over \$15 million. The goal is for each directly operated site to reduce indigent medication expenditures by 11%. Thanks to the diligence of staff and psychiatrists, DMH saved over \$1.5 million, a remarkable 25%, during the last quarter.



Please help us communicate with you by checking your e-mail regularly and sharing this information with your colleagues. Thank you.

Ask the Pharmacist!

Do you have a question regarding Pharmacy Services at DMH?

If so, please send your question(s) via e-mail to Wayland Chan at the address below.

